

1-36. (CANCELED)

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lower leg protective apparel for providing protection from one of chemical and biological noxiants, the lower leg protective apparel comprising a sock having a toe section and a heel section, and the sock having a plurality of plies and comprising: ←

an outersock (1), ←

a laminate (2), disposed on an inner side of the outersock (1), ~~which comprises~~ ←
consisting of first, second and third layers, ←

the first layer being a single flexible, windproof, breathable and water-rejecting membrane (7) which forms the outer surface of the laminate (2) and which forms at least a barrier to biological noxiants and at least a partial barrier to liquid chemical noxiants, ←

the second layer being a single carbon layer (8) which is disposed ←
underneath the membrane (7) and which comprises carbon in one of a fibrous form and as active spherules of carbon,

the third layer being an inner textile ply (9), and ←
an innersock (3) disposed as a second textile ply on an inner side of the laminate (2),

wherein at least one of the outersock (1) and the innersock (3) is fabricated from a plurality of cuts (4, 5, 6), seams between the cuts (4, 5, 6) being sealed by a ~~[[a]]~~ seam-sealing tape comprising a waterproof material, and ←

the outersock (1), the laminate (2) and the innersock (3) are assembled to one another as a single unit by at least one of bonding and stitching.

38-40. (CANCELED)

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of plies (1, 2, 3) are sewn together.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 41, wherein the plurality of plies (1, 2, 3) are sewn together at their upper ends and in a foot tip region.

43-44. (CANCELED)

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the membrane (7) is microporous.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 45, wherein the membrane (7) comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

47. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lower leg protective apparel for providing protection from at least one of chemical and biological noxiants, the lower leg protective apparel being a sock garment comprising a toe section and a heel section, and the sock garment having a plurality of plies and comprising:

an outersock (1), and

a laminate (2), disposed on an inner side of the outersock (1), comprising:

a single flexible, windproof and water-rejecting membrane (7), comprising a polytetrafluoroethylene membrane, which forms the outer surface of the laminate (2) and pores of the membrane (7) have a size such that the pores are pervious to water vapor but the pores are resistant to permeation of biological and chemical noxiants through the pores,

a single carbon layer (8) which is disposed underneath the membrane (7) and which comprises carbon in a fibrous form, and

an inner textile ply (9),

wherein at least the ~~outersock (1) is fabricated from a plurality of cuts (4, 5, 6)~~ laminate is produced by a cut for a shaft (4), a cut for an upper part of a foot (5) and a cut for a sole (6), and seams between the cuts (4, 5, 6) are sealed by a waterproof material;

a thickness of carbon layer (8) is in a range from 0.2 to 1.0 mm; and

[[the]] an innersock (3) is hydrophilic.

48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~lower leg protective apparel for providing protection~~ sock garment comprising a toe section and a heel section for protecting at least a foot of a wearer from one of chemical and biological noxiants, the ~~lower leg protective apparel~~ sock garment having a plurality of plies and comprising:

an outersock (1),

a laminate (2), disposed on an inner side of the outersock (1), comprising

a single flexible, windproof and water-rejecting membrane (7) with the membrane (7) being one of a polyester, a polyether and a mixture of a polyester and a polyether and which forms the outer surface of the laminate (2) and which forms at least a barrier to biological noxiants and at least a partial barrier to liquid chemical noxiants,

a single carbon layer (8) disposed underneath the membrane (7) and which comprises a fabric of one of a woven carbon fiber material and a loop-drawingly knit carbon fiber material, and

an inner textile ply (9),

wherein at least one of the outersock (1) and an innersock (3) is fabricated from a plurality of cuts (4, 5, 6), and seams between the cuts (4, 5, 6) are sealed by a waterproof material;

a thickness of carbon layer (8) is in a range from 0.2 to 1.0 mm;

the innersock (3), at an upper most portion of the sock garment, folds back over the laminate (2) and the outersock (1) and covers a portion of an outer side of the outersock (1) to expose the innersock (3) to an exterior of the sock garment and facilitate evaporation of moisture absorbed thereby and

the innersock (3) is hydrophilic.

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The lower leg protective apparel~~ sock garment according to claim 48, wherein an active surface area of a carbon layer (8) is in a range from 1000 to 1200 m²/g.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein a thickness of carbon layer (8) is in a range from 0.2 to 1.0 mm and the innersock (3) is hydrophilic.

51-52. (CANCELED)

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the membrane (7) is based on cellophane.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the membrane (7) comprises one of polyvinyl alcohols, polyacrylamides or polyurethane.

55-57 (CANCELED)

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the outersock (1) comprises one of wool, cotton, silk, polyester, polypropylene, polyamide, polyacrylic and mixtures thereof.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the inner textile ply (9) in the laminate (2) is one of a woven and a loop-formingly knit fabric.

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the innersock (3) is hydrophilic, and

the innersock (3) comprises one of polypropylene, polyamide, polyester and mixtures thereof.

61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the innersock (3) is made of manufactured fibers.

62. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~lower leg protective apparel~~ sock garment ←
according to claim 48, wherein

the innersock (3) comprises one of polypropylene, polyamide, polyester and mixtures thereof.

63. (CANCELED)

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the innersock (3) is stitched with a fleecy spun yarn to at least one of the other plies (1, 2).

65-70. (CANCELED)

71. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lower leg protective apparel according to claim 37, wherein the inner textile ply (9) of the laminate (2) is hydrophilic.

72. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~lower leg protective apparel~~ sock garment ←
having a toe section and a heel section for providing protection to at least a foot of a ←
wearer from one of chemical and biological noxiants, ~~the lower leg protective apparel~~ ←
~~having a plurality of plies and comprising~~ the sock garment consisting of first, second ←
and third plies: ←

the first ply consisting of an outersock (1) comprising at least one of one of wool, cotton, silk, polyester, polypropylene, polyamide and polyacrylic;

the second ply being a laminate (2); disposed on consisting of first, second and third layers, with the first layer being adjacent an inner side of the outersock (1), which comprises

the first layer of the laminate (2) consisting of a single flexible, windproof, breathable and water-rejecting membrane (7) which forms an outer surface of the laminate (2) and which forms at least a barrier to biological noxiants and at least a partial barrier to liquid chemical noxiants,

the second layer of the laminate (2) consisting of a single carbon layer (8) which is disposed underneath the membrane (7) and which comprises carbon in a fibrous form from one of a woven and a loop-drawingly knit fabric,

the third layer of the laminate (2) consisting of an inner hydrophilic textile ply (9) that is one of a woven and a loop-formingly knit fabric, and

the third ply consisting of an innersock (3) that is hydrophilic and disposed as a second textile ply on an inner side adjacent the third layer of the laminate (2) and comprises at least one of polypropylene, polyamide and polyester;

wherein at least one of the outersock (1) and the innersock (3) is fabricated from a plurality of cuts (4, 5, 6), seams between the cuts (4, 5, 6) being sealed by a seam-sealing tape comprising a waterproof material,

a thickness of carbon layer (8) is in a range from 0.2 to 1.0 mm;

the innersock (3) is hydrophilic and comprises one of polypropylene, polyamide, polyester and mixtures thereof the innersock (3), at an upper most portion of the sock garment, folds back over the laminate (2) and the outersock (1) and covers a portion of an outer side of the outersock (1) to facilitate evaporation of moisture absorbed thereby; and

the outersock (1), the laminate (2) and the innersock (3) are bonded to one another as a single unit.